



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

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March 5, 1987

Mr. John E. Fausett
P.O. Box 17
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Dear Mr. Fausett:

RE: Initial Review of Mining and Reclamation Plan, Cedar Buttes
Mine, PRO/047/028, Uintah County, Utah

The Division has completed its initial review of your Mining and Reclamation Plan received February 2, 1987. The information contained in the application is insufficient for the Division to complete a technical review at this time.

Many portions of the application were left blank or answered with "none" or "not pertain". Much of this omitted information is needed in order for the Division to complete its review, calculate a amount for reclamation surety, and proceed towards final permit approval.

The following review comments identify the specific areas where additional information is required before the permitting process can continue. Each comment is referenced back to the page and question number of your original application. The rule number in parentheses references the section of the Mined Land Reclamation Act Rules addressed by each question.

Page 3, Item 13 (Rules M-3 & M-6)

A plan view and cross sections of the mine area should be submitted as described below. A scale of 1 inch = 100 feet is suggested. These drawings can be made on the scaled form listed as Attachment I if you desire.

Page 2
Mr. John E. Fausett
March 5, 1987

Plan View:

A plan view of the operation that clearly shows the dimensions of the pad area and mining area is required. Include only that area which you are using for the mining operation. The Division will not hold you responsible for reclaiming that area which was previously disturbed by Whiting Oil Company and which you are not using as part of your operation.

Cross Sections:

Two cross sections of the mining area are required. The first cross section should show what the site looks like at present and the second should show how the site will appear when the bench area is mined down to the level of the pad area. The two cross sections can be shown on the same drawing with the current highwall, bench, and hillside shown with a dotted line and the final configuration with a solid line.

Page 10, Item 28 (Rule M-10(5))

A variance should be requested and justification provided for the proposed highwall since it will exceed 45 degrees in slope. Please see page 92 (5) of the Mined Land Reclamation Act rules for a discussion on highwall variances.

Page 5, Item 19 (Rule M-3 (2)(a))

Please show wildlife (rather than "none") as a possible post-mining land use.

Page 6, Item 20 (Rule M-10(12))

1. Please describe how brush and trees will be removed, e.g. dozed together, piled, and burned, etc.
2. Please provide a reliable estimate of the percent vegetative cover found on the undisturbed land around the minesite, e.g. 20% cover. This information is needed as a guide, because you will need to obtain 70% of the original ground cover in order to obtain a bond release after reclamation.
3. Please list the species of dominant vegetation present, e.g. Big Sagebrush, Pinion Pine, Bluebunch Wheatgrass, etc.

Page 3
Mr. John E. Fausett
March 5, 1987

Page 6, Item 21 (Rule M-3 (2)(c))

- A. Please provide a PH test of the soil from the Soil Conservation Service or other source, as this information may be needed for future reference.
- B. There is a very good topsoil layer on some of the undisturbed area. Please estimate the volume of such soil to be stockpiled.

Page 8, Item 23 (Rule M-3 (2)(d))

- C. Please describe how topsoil will be spread
 - 1. Show approximate depths of soil spread.
 - 3. The Division recommends applying 300 lbs./acre of 18-48-0 commercial fertilizer at the time of seeding.
 - 4. Please describe the type of surface preparation to be used prior to seeding, e.g. ripping with tractor, discing, harrowing, etc.
- D. Please describe plans for either leaving or reclaiming the roads and pads associated with the operation. It is the Division's understanding that the pads would be reclaimed and the access road left.

Page 9, Item 25 (Rule M-3 (2)(e))

- A. Who will be doing the revegetation work?
- D. In order to avoid the construction of vegetation test plots, we suggest that you state the level of success and the species used on the reclaimed area adjacent to the minesite.
- E. Please provide a Revegetation plan including the following information:
 - 1. Species to be seeded, e.g. Smooth Bromegrass (5 lbs/acre), Bluebunch Wheatgrass (5 lbs/acre), Intermediate Wheatgrass (5 lbs/acre), Bitterbrush (5 lbs/acre).
 - 2. Pounds of seed/acre, e.g. 20 lbs/acre.

Page 4
Mr. John E. Fausett
March 5, 1987

3. Season to be planted, e.g. fall.
4. Seedbed preparation, e.g. ripping.
5. Method of application, e.g. hand broadcasting & harrowing to cover seed approximately 1/2 inch deep.
6. Fertilizer, e.g. 300 lbs/acre 18-48-0.

Page 10, Item 26 (Rule M-3 (2)(f))

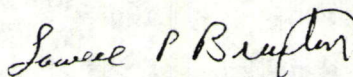
D. Please provide an estimate of when some of the reclamation work might be done.

The following forms have been enclosed for your convenience:

- 1) A blank MR-1 form (to amend your previous application).
- 2) Your original application.
- 3) A copy of the Mined Land Reclamation Act and accompanying rules and regulations.

If possible, please provide a response to the comments outlined above by April 5, 1987. Thank you for your cooperation in this permitting matter. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Dave Wham of the technical staff.

Sincerely,



L. P. Braxton
Administrator
Mineral Resource Development
and Reclamation Program

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DMW:clj
cc: F. Filas
D. Wham
F. Jensen
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